

Parchment Outlines English Cock Fighting Rules Observed in 1750

In the Main Street barber shop of Al Hall there hangs an old parchment in an ornate picture frame.

Most of Al's customers glance idly at it one-time or another as he shears their hair. They read in the sprawling, uneven printing of about 250 years ago, the words: "Articles for a cock fight." Some of the more curious ask Al to take it off the wall so they can examine it more closely.

A friend sent it to me from England more than 25 years ago," Al explains. It lists the rules for the pitting of fighting roosters against each other in England in the 1750's.

The sport of cock fighting was called "cocking" then.

Didn't Eat Eggs

It is one of the oldest sports and forms of gambling known, being popular in ancient India, China and Persia. Some historians claim, Mr. Hall adds, that men conducted cock fights before they knew that chicken's eggs were good to eat.

The sight of two roosters battling each other once served as an inspiration to a Greek army that was about to be defeated. After watching the two birds for a time the soldiers gained new courage and went on to win.

The legions of Caesar brought the sport to England, where it won an instant and lasting popularity until it was forbidden by law in 1849.

Pleasure of Princes

Cock fighting hit its peak in Britain during the reign of Henry VIII and became known as the "pleasure of princes."

It came to the United States when this nation was still young. Cock fighting, Mr. Hall points out, has had a greater effect on

our national history than many persons realize.

When congress was choosing the national bird, votes for the spunky game cock and the haughty eagle were tied. The vice-president cast the deciding tally—in favor of the eagle.

Banned by Law

Cock fights are banned by law in most states, in Canada, Great Britain and most countries in South America. The sport is legal in Cuba, Puerto Rico and Florida. It still flourishes in this country, however, mostly along the Atlantic coast and in the south.

"I started raising game cocks in what is now Tulsa, Oklahoma, when I was six years old," Al relates. "I've raised them ever since. I've pitted them in Florida and Havana, Cuba."

"Pit," he explains is the proper term to use. You pit a rooster against his opponent.

Ships to Islands

Al still raises the fighting roosters on his farm near Sandy. "I ship about 50 or 60 a year to the Hawaiian Islands and to the southern states."

A law forbidding cruelty to animals bans game cock fights in Oregon.

Are the chickens good for anything besides fighting?

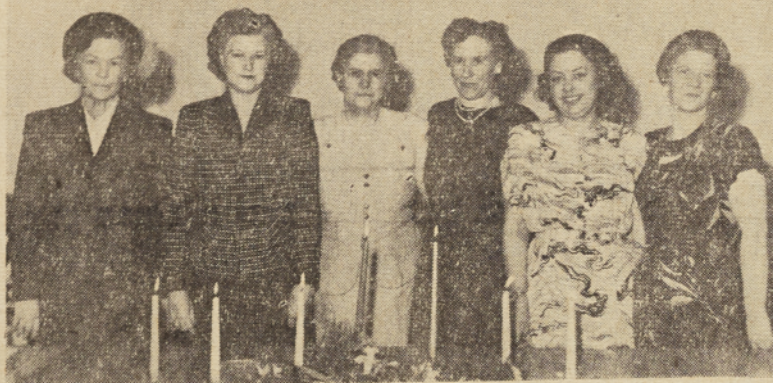
"They make the best eating you ever tasted," Al declares. Game cocks are a broad breasted bird, have lots of white meat.

Common Phrases

From the fighting cocks have come some of our more common expressions. To "show the white feather" means that a man displays cowardice.

It first was used to describe roosters that no longer would fight in a match. When they wished to signify they had enough, they raised their hackles,

New Speech Club Officers



Mrs. Shirley Vedder (fourth from left) and Mrs. Theima Norquist (extreme right) were two Sandy women among the new officers installed last Wednesday by the Gresham Toastmistress Club. The others in the photo are (left to right) Miss Norma Hundley, Mrs. H. L. Rice and Mrs. Russell R. Sherwood.

which were edged with white feathers.

The first "cocktail," Mr. Hall explains, was a mixture of whiskey and eggs fed the birds to condition them for a match. Then the trainers found out it was good for human consumption.

Odds Change Rapidly

Cock fighting at the present time primarily is a reason for gambling. The odds constantly change and wagers are made at each lunge of the chickens.

The cocks will usually fight until they are exhausted or dead, although most matches do not go this far. They are pitted according to weight, much as wrestlers or boxers.

In fact, Mr. Hall declares, cock fighting has greatly influenced boxing. The padded gloves that fighters now use were an adaptation of the leather shields tied about the roosters' long spurs when they fought training bouts, and the Marquis of Queensbury rules that governed the "noble art of self defence" in the days of John L. Sullivan, were taken from the "articles for cocking" that Mr. Hall displays in his shop.

Troutdale Grade Wins From Orient Hoopers

Finally getting into action in East league play after bad weather had canceled earlier games, Troutdale grade school this week lambasted Orient, 40-15.

Sy Johnson paced the hot Troutdale offensive with 19 points. League standings show Fairview with 3 wins, Troutdale with 1 win, Springdale and Corbett with a win and a loss apiece, and Orient with 4 losses.

Use for Syrup, Juices

You can utilize left-over syrup or juice from canned fruits by putting it in a fruit drink or using it to baste ham or luncheon meat.

Taxes Cost Motorists \$13,505,917 in 1947

Oregon highway users paid \$13,505,917 during 1947 to the Federal Government in special automotive taxes, according to figures released by the chairman of the Oregon Highway Users Conference, T. R. Conway, manager of the Oregon State Motor Association.

The Oregon vehicle users' biggest payment to the Federal treasury was in the form of the 1½ cent Federal gasoline tax. A total of \$5,496,134 was paid in this one tax alone. Federal excise taxes collected in Oregon on automobiles amounted to \$2,638,790; on tires and tubes, \$2,295,825; on automotive parts and accessories \$1,550,988; on trucks \$1,042,063; and on lubricating oil \$482,117.

These taxes, Mr. Conway pointed out, go to the national govern-

ment's general funds; whereas states generally depend on their special automotive taxes for highway purposes.

NEWS FROM WEMME

WEMME—Mrs. J. S. Greenwood and Jennie Welches had the pleasure of being accompanied to Salem by Joe Dryer and Frank J. Van Dyke, speaker of the state house of representatives. They spent the week end with Mr. Greenwood.

CLUB WILL MEET

AIMS—The Community Club will meet this week at the home of Mrs. Emil Stromberg.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Kinsman visited relatives in Portland last week.

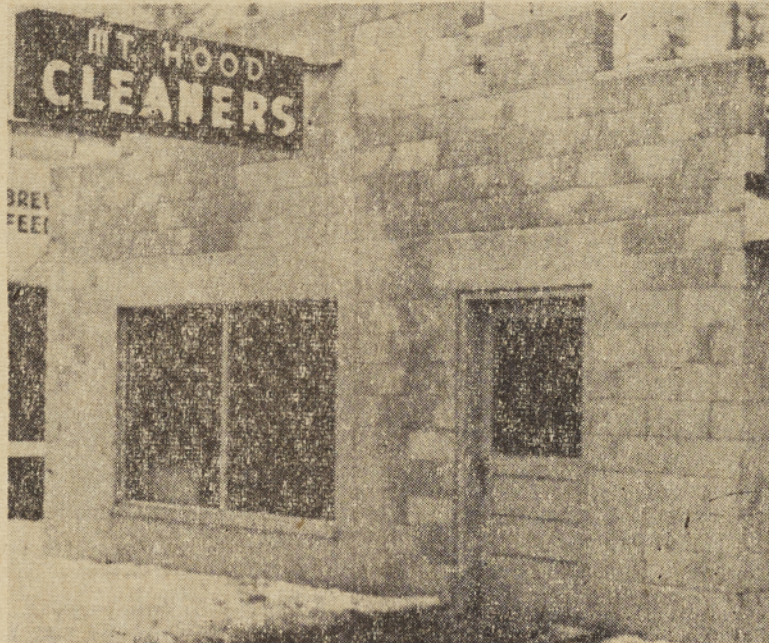
Mr. and Mrs. Lusky Rowland have returned from a visit to Berkeley, Calif.

CHEER SANDY To Victory Over WOODBURN FRIDAY NIGHT, FEBRUARY 4th

REMEMBER — For Better Eating After the Game

Fireside Chicken and Dumplings Phone Sandy 242 Loop Highway

Announcing - - -



The Grand OPENING Saturday, Feb. 5

of the

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and NEW

DRY CLEANING PLANT

NEW FEATURES HAVE BEEN ADDED

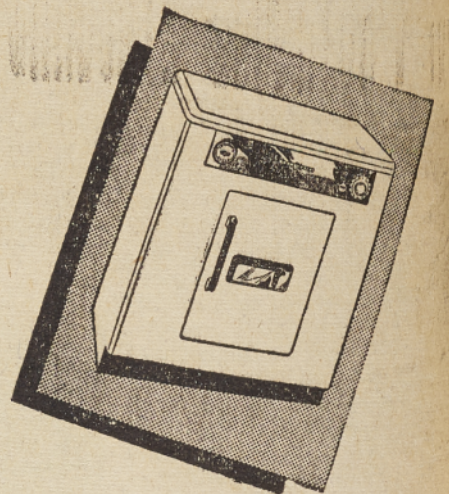
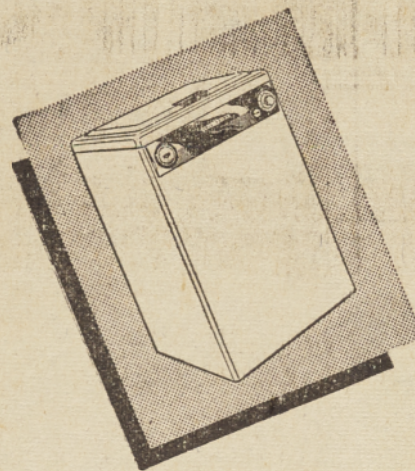
Frigidaire Automatic Washing and Drying Machines await your convenience in our Self Service Laundry.

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